

**Tefillah: Prayer Doesn't Have to Be Perfect,  
It Just Has To Be Yours**  
Tefillah Specialty Track 2

*Selections from Pirkei Avot and Im Ain Ani Li Mi Li by Beth Schafer*

<b>Pirkei Avot</b>	
<p>הוא היה אומר, אם אין אני לי, מי לי. וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני. ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי</p>	<p>1:14 He [Rabbi Hillel] used to say: If I am not for me, who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, then when?</p>
<p>רבי שמעון אומר, הוי זְהִיר בְּקִרְיַאת שְׁמַע וּבְתַפְלָה. וּכְשֶׁאֲתָה מִתְפַּלֵּל, אַל תַּעַשׂ תְּפִלְתְּךָ קֹבַע, אֲלֵא רַחֲמִים וְתַחֲנוּנִים לְפָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם בְּרוּךְ הוּא, שְׁנֹאֲמַר (יואל ב) כִּי חַנוּן וְרַחוּם הוּא אֲרָךְ אַפִּים וְרַב חֶסֶד וְנָחֵם עַל הַרְעָה. וְאַל תְּהִי רָשָׁע בְּפָנָי עֲצֻמָּה:</p>	<p>2:13 Rabbi Shimon says: Be careful in the reciting of Shema (and praying). When you pray, do not make your prayer fixed, rather prayers for mercy and supplication before the Omnipresent, blessed be He, as it says (Joel 2, 13), "For He is gracious and merciful, long-suffering and full of kindness, and repents of the evil." And do not be wicked in your own eyes.</p>
<p>רבי טרפון אומר, היום קצר והמלאכה מרובה, והפועלים עצלים, והשכר הרבה, ובעל הבית דוחק:</p>	<p>2:15 Rabbi Tarfon said: The day is short and the work is much, and the workers are lazy and the reward is great, and the Master of the house is pressing.</p>

הוא הִיה אומר, לא עֲלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לְגַמְרָה, וְלֹא אֵתָהּ בֶן  
חורין לְבַטֵּל מִמֶּנָּה. אִם לְמַדְתָּ תוֹרָה הַרְבֵּה, נוֹתְנִים לְךָ  
שָׂכָר הַרְבֵּה. וְנֶאֱמַן הוּא בֵּעַל מְלָאכְתְּךָ שִׁישְׁלֵם לְךָ שָׂכָר  
פְּעֻלָּתְךָ. וְדַע מִתֵּן שָׂכָרְךָ שֶׁל צְדִיקִים לְעֵתִיד לְבֹא

2:16 He used to say: It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it. If you have learned much Torah, your reward will be much; and the Master of your work is trustworthy to pay you the wage for your activity. And know, the giving of reward to the righteous is in the future to come.

## CORNERSTONE 2018 RESOURCE

### Im Ein Ani Li Mi Li

**Text: Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Hillel  
Music and English Lyrics: Beth Schafer © 2008**

If I don't stand up for myself then who will stand for me?  
If I don't know me? Who's gonna show me?

And if I don't stand up for another, who is my brother,  
How can I hold my head up high?

#### Chorus

Im ein ani li mi li uchsheani 'aksmi ma ani  
V'im lo achshav eimatal, im lo achshav eimatal

And you know I've got your back if trouble should find you  
I will remind you, that I am behind you

Could you please watch out for me if I go astray now.  
Help make it ok now, show me the way.

#### Chorus

If not now when? This chance might never come again.  
woh oh oh oh...

#### Chorus

*Trans: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me, but if I am only for myself,  
what am I? And, if not now, when?"*

**THE STORY**  
Wanted to write an "up" setting of this great text. Something kid-friendly. This ditty with a fun, reggae groove seems to fit the bill as it has become a favorite at URJ Camp Coleman as well as the Hebrew Day School of Central Florida. Thanks for your enthusiasm, Kids!!!



### THE PLAYERS

This song features: John Marsden on keys and vocals, Bill "Giff" Gifford on bass and vocals, Johnny Demarkis on drums and vocals, Beth on guitars, harmonica and vocals.